

# **DON'T LET THE INTEGRITY OF THE "CERTIFIED ORGANIC LABEL" BE UNDERMINED**

***FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW AND SEND IT TO THE U.S.D.A.  
BEFORE APRIL 30, 1998***

This natural health food store, a member of the National Nutritional Foods Association Southeast Region, supports the National Nutritional Foods Association Southeast Region (NNFA SE), the National Nutritional Foods Association (NNFA), the Organic Trade Association, Citizens for Health and SUSTAIN in urging industry members and the general public to comment on the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA's) Proposed Organic Rule. This store agrees with these organizations that many provisions of the Proposed Rule are not compatible or consistent with current organic practices and have the potential to undermine the integrity of the "certified organic" label.

The USDA's proposed rules open the door for practices such as genetic engineering, food irradiation, the use of toxic sewage sludge, and the irresponsible use of antibiotics in livestock production. This store vehemently opposes the inclusion of these processes, and agrees with the NNFA and the Organic Trade Association that the following are the top threats to Organic Integrity set forth in the proposed rules: missing the big picture by eliminating key concepts; ignoring the recommendations of the National Organic Standards Board; possible inclusion of genetically-engineered organism (GEOs) in organic systems; possible inclusion of food irradiation in post-harvest organic production; possible inclusion of biosolids (sewage, sludge) in organic farm practices; weak livestock section; unnecessary loopholes; weakened de-certification authority; and ignoring historical land usage practices. (See reverse side for background on the Organic Foods Production Act)

Personal letters are more effective, however, you may use the form letter attached below. Just fill out the form, check the boxes and cut on line.

**PLACE A STAMP AND YOUR RETURN ADDRESS ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THIS PAGE  
DROP IN THE MAIL BEFORE APRIL 30, 1998**

- ☒ I OPPOSE USE OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED ORGANISMS in organic food production. This process may have long-term adverse effects on the environment and our health.
- ☒ I OPPOSE IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ANTIBIOTICS with organically raised livestock. The USDA should also tighten up the livestock portion of the rules to ban caged animal protection and ban the use of rendered animals as feed to herbivore animals.

- ☒ I OPPOSE IRRADIATION OF ORGANIC FOOD. (The USDA calls this ionizing radiation). This process uses radioactive materials in order to kill bacteria in food. It's never been used on organic foods, and does not belong.
- ☒ I OPPOSE THE USE OF TOXIC SLUDGE in organic farming. Municipal sewage sludge may be contaminated with toxic chemicals (lead, cadmium, and others) that potentially could be absorbed by the crops.

- ☒ I SUPPORT THE NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARD BOARD'S ROLE in determining allowable synthetic ingredients in organic production. Congress created this independent board with broad experience in organic agriculture. It should be the primary body governing the future of organic.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_